

National Priority 1: Implement the NIMS and NRF

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This section should address the NIMS as defined below:

Associated Factor: NIMS/NIMSCAST

- Describe what the State has done to support implementation of NIMS and NIMCAST.

National Priority 1: Implement the NIMS and NRF

A. Accomplishments

Adoption of NIMS by Local Jurisdictions

Virginia has adopted NIMS (under executive order) as the all-hazards incident management system for all State-level departments and agencies. All local jurisdictions have been (and are currently being) monitored by the State to ensure the adoption of NIMS, and at this time, all 134 jurisdictions within Virginia have complied.

VDEM's training division provides guidance and resources needed to achieve the 17 requirements for local NIMS compliance and the 23 requirements for state-level NIMS compliance. The Commonwealth has also put in place the updates for 2007 and will require State agencies (that receive and distribute State and Federal funding to localities for emergency and disaster preparedness activities) to use performance measures to objectively measure progress.

EMAP Accreditation

Having met the standards for EMAP accreditation, the State has successfully completed the NEMB-CAP assessment. Currently, the emergency management functions (EMFs) outlined in the EMAP process are being fully utilized and incorporated into VDEM emergency management programs, training, and response activities. The EMFs, along with NIMS and NRP, are also the underlying organizational principles for coordinated activities across the state.

Full EMAP accreditation is a testament to the State's compliance with NEMB-CAP. VDEM continues to work closely with the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness, the Department of Health, the National Guard, Department of Transportation, Department of Forestry, and the State Police to further progress toward regionalizing all-hazards systems of preparedness and response and optimizing available funding to provide the greatest good across the State. Furthermore, the Recovery & Mitigation and the Operations Divisions have transitioned from emergency and disaster specific processes to implementation and utilization of an all-hazards approach, using the structure provided by ICS, NIMS, and the NRP to coordinate activities across jurisdictions and entities.

NIMS Coordinators

Since November 1, 2005, Mr. Michael M. Cline has served as the State Coordinator of Emergency Management as well as the principle coordinator for statewide NIMS implementation. In addition, each of the Commonwealth's 115 departments and/or agencies has designated an individual to serve as principle coordinator for NIMS.

Baseline Assessment and Strategy

The Commonwealth conducted a baseline assessment of the implementation of NIMS requirements throughout Virginia. In addition, a strategy was developed for NIMS implementation and monitoring and the Commonwealth has plans in place for the use of

communications equipment and facilities, the testing of equipment, the supervision and operation of incident communications, the distribution of equipment assigned to personnel, and the maintenance and repair of equipment on site.

Multi-Agency Coordination Systems and the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

Multi-Agency Coordination Systems (MACS) are encouraged through training curriculum, exercises, and frameworks such as the EOP. In 2007, MACS were used successfully for a variety of events including the Jamestown 400th Anniversary (2007), the Virginia Tech shootings (2007), and Tropical Storm Ernesto (2006). The EOP includes processes and procedures for using a Public Information System (PIS), including the establishment of a Joint Information System (JIS) and a Joint Information Center (JIC).

Incident Command System (ICS)

All emergency incidents as well as preplanned events in Virginia are managed using the ICS organizational structures, doctrines, and procedures.

NIMS-Related Training and Exercises

All NIMS-related training in the Commonwealth adheres to the NIMS National Standard Curriculum. In addition, all of the available community colleges and police training facilities, as well as the majority of fire/rescue training facilities and other facilities across the Commonwealth, have been used to deliver NIMS training. During 2007, the following HSEEP- compliant drills and exercises were conducted within the Commonwealth:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Drills</i> | 3 |
| <i>Tabletop Exercises</i> | 8 |
| <i>Functional Exercises</i> | 5 |
| <i>Full-scale Exercises</i> | 3 |
| <i>Total</i> | 19 |

Virginia conducts 17 exercises annually—two of which are State level exercises, and 15 of which are regional. Each of these exercises is designed to test plans and help identify any shortfalls or issues requiring attention. Both State-level exercises involve local and Federal partners. Virginia also hosts multiple exercises each year involving JFCOM and NORHTCOM.

Common Language Protocol

A common language protocol for first responders was mandated across the State in 2006.

Commonwealth of Virginia HSEEP, Multi-Year Exercise Plan 2005-2007

The purpose of the Multi-Year Exercise Plan is to coordinate and ensure the NIMS compliance of all exercise activities occurring throughout the Commonwealth, including exercise activities being conducted locally, statewide, or by the Federal government. The plan provides the schedule and describes the cycle of exercise activity that employs increasing degrees of complexity.

B. Current Capabilities

NIMS/NIMSCAST:

See Compliance section of this State Preparedness Report.

Three-Year Targets **(NEED TO REVISE TO INCLUDE/SET 2010 TARGETS)**

NIMS/NIMSCAST:

| Target Description | Projected Completion Year | Status |
|---|---------------------------|--------|
| Monitor and assess outreach and implementation of NIMS Requirements | 2008 | Open |
| Establish public information system to gather, verify, coordinate, and disseminate information during an incident | 2008 | Open |
| Complete training—ICS-300, ICS-400 | 2008 | Open |
| Validate that inventory of response assets conforms to FEMA Resource Typing Standards | 2008 | Open |
| Utilize response asset inventory for Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) requests, exercises, and actual events | 2008 | Open |
| Develop systems and processes to ensure that incident managers at all levels share a common operating picture of an incident | 2008 | Open |
| Adopted NIMS for all government departments and agencies; as well as promote and encourage NIMS adoption by associations, utilities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector incident management and response organizations | 2008 | Open |
| Monitor formal adoption of NIMS by all tribal and local jurisdictions | 2008 | Open |
| Establish a planning process to ensure the communication and implementation of NIMS requirements, providing a means for measuring progress and facilitate reporting | 2008 | Open |
| Manage all emergency incidents and pre-planned (recurring/special) events in accordance with ICS organizational structures, doctrine and procedures, as defined in NIMS. ICS implementation must include the consistent application of Incident Action Planning and Common Communications Plans | 2008 | Open |

| Target Description | Projected Completion Year | Status |
|---|---------------------------|--------|
| Coordinate and support emergency incident and event management through the development and use of integrated multi-agency coordination systems , i.e. develop and maintain connectivity capability between local Incident Command Posts (ICP), local 911 Centers, local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), the state EOC and regional and/ federal EOCs and /NRP organizational elements. | 2008 | Open |
| Institutionalize, within the framework of ICS, the Public Information System (PIS), comprising of the Joint Information System (JIS) and a Joint Information Center (JIC). | 2008 | Open |
| Establish NIMS baseline against the FY 2005 and FY 2006 implementation requirements | 2008 | Open |
| Revise and update plans and SOPs to incorporate NIMS and National Response Plan (NRP) components, principles and policies, to include planning, training, response, exercises, equipment, evaluation and corrective actions | 2008 | Open |
| Participate in and promote intrastate and interagency mutual aid agreements, to include agreements with the private sector and non-governmental organizations | 2008 | Open |
| Leverage training facilities to coordinate and deliver NIMS training requirements in conformance with the NIMS National Standard Curriculum | 2008 | Open |
| Complete training—IS-700 NIMS: An Introduction, Complete IS-800 NRP: An Introduction; ICS-100 and ICS-200 | 2008 | Open |
| Participate in an all-hazard exercise program based on NIMS that involves responders from multiple disciplines and multiple jurisdictions | 2008 | Open |
| Develop state plans for the receipt and distribution of resources as outlined in the National Response Plan (NRP) Catastrophic Incident Annex and Catastrophic Incident Supplement | 2008 | Open |
| Coordinate and provide technical assistance to local entities regarding NIMS institutionalized used of ICS | 2008 | Open |

D. Initiatives

NIMS/NIMSCAST:

Expand NIMS-based Regional Training, Educational Resources, and Awareness (All Targets)

Description:

This initiative takes maximum advantage of the project momentum begun in mid-2003 to prepare the Commonwealth for adoption of a statewide incident management system and NIMS-compliance. The existing interagency collaboration to coordinate and deliver NIMS training requirements in conformance with the NIMS National Standard Curriculum must be expanded to achieve optimum preparedness levels. This initiative includes:

- Doubling the current pool of instructors by recruiting and training qualified personnel.
- Increasing the number of training sessions by 40% the first year and 60% the second year.
- Developing and conducting seven regional workshops to align emergency operations plans with NIMS and the NRP.
- Developing and marketing NIMS and NRP awareness campaigns targeting executive leaders.
- Printing student and instructor materials.
- Contracting for training facilities.
- Purchasing additional audiovisual equipment to support increased course load.

Geographic Scope:

This initiative is statewide-- encompassing the 343 municipalities, all urban areas, each of the seven homeland security regions, several dozen state agencies, key private sector partners, and volunteer groups. It will be coordinated and delivered on a regional basis as another opportunity to implement NIMS and strengthen regional collaboration.

Sustain and Extend the Current Commonwealth of Virginia Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program – Regional Capability Project (HSEEP-RCP) (All Targets)

Description:

The HSEEP-RCP is the mechanism by which the Commonwealth executes its Homeland Security Comprehensive Exercise Program (as expressed in the Multi-Year Exercise Plan). The plan outlines a 3-year strategy with exercise goals and provides a statewide methodology, guidelines and framework for developing each desired exercise in accordance with DHS doctrine. The plan and program follow the annual cycle of:

- Planning/Development
- Training/Preparation
- Exercises
- Improvement Plan

Geographic Scope:

Using a building-block approach, the Commonwealth can ensure the scope, scale, and complexity of each exercise is tailored to each specific region or jurisdiction, while maintaining a consistent statewide delivery method.

Program Management for both Initiatives:

The Commonwealth's exercise program allows for a logical progression of regional and jurisdictional preparedness by increasing the size, complexity, and stress factor over time. A full-time liaison representative has been positioned at VDEM to manage the exercise program on a

daily basis. Within each of the homeland security Regions, VDEM provides a full-time employee who represents the State Coordinator of Emergency Management on a daily basis. The program manager and regional liaisons are supported by three exercise support and design teams that are responsible for the planning and conduct of individual exercises.

The Commonwealth is currently designing, developing, delivering, and evaluating Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) and “All-hazards” exercises on behalf of VDEM. This particular exercise program is managed under the department’s Training and Exercise Branch and is staffed with one full-time and one wage employee

Conducted annually, VDEM also coordinates and manages the State-level EPW to coordinate all exercise activities occurring within the departments and agencies in the State (including activities sponsored by supporting Federal agencies). This coordination helps eliminate duplicative efforts.

E. Resources

Resources Expended in FY 2007

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program and Statewide Training Program

This investment will produce two new regional exercises and one statewide exercise each year. A portion of this investment will also be used for National Incident Management System and terrorism training, to ensure that participants can attend the classes at no charge and that their travel costs will be reimbursed.

\$2,540,995

Future Resources Required

Annually the HSEEP and NIMS training program expend \$3,500,000. Expanding this program to include backfill and overtime for locality participants would add an additional \$2,000,000. Between 2007 and 2010 this program is estimated to require \$17,500,000.